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National Electric Light Association

General Headquarters



29 W. 39th St., New York, N.Y.

Apr 27. 22

Dear Clarke: I am very glad indeed to get your data. It is all very interesting, that we want, as you intimate, is the actual date or dates of going into physical operation as a central station. Keily in a Bulletin issued for Insull's Co. in Chicago in 1920 says that The Western Edison Co (predecessor of the Chicago Edison) "sold the machinery for a small water power driven central station, which was put into operation in Appleton, on or about Oct 15, 1882".

That is quite definite, from a proper source of information, and seems to go with the other data in the case.

The absence of references in the Bulletin to Newburgh is funny, but of course, not evidence or conclusive. Newburgh was a show plant with Frank Hastings, who sent Wheeler up there from Pearl St. very early in the game 1882-3. I have it up with them now. I have a vague but curiously vivid recollection of being sent by Hastings or Johnson up to see the Newburgh central station plant in one of the mills along the River front. I was after news for the "Elec World" started as a separate paper May, 1883. but I was working on the "Operator. Elec World" before that. Res. Yours
T. A. M. A. T. A. I.